

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

**(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau**



(43) International Publication Date
22 April 2004 (22.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/033854 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: E21C 41/26

(AU). **MENABDE, Merab** [AU/AU]; 1/20 Bendigo Street, Cheltenham, Victoria 3192 (AU).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/AU2003/001299

(74) Agent: SMOORENBURG PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS; Locked Bag 9, Kangaroo Ground, VIC 3097 (AU).

(22) International Filing Date: 2 October 2003 (02.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

2002951892	9 October 2002 (09.10.2002)	AU
2002951895	9 October 2002 (09.10.2002)	AU
2002951898	9 October 2002 (09.10.2002)	AU
2002951957	9 October 2002 (09.10.2002)	AU
2002952654	14 November 2002 (14.11.2002)	AU
2002952681	14 November 2002 (14.11.2002)	AU

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GO, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BHP BIL-
LITON INNOVATION PTY LTD [AU/AU]; 180 Lons-
dale Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 (AU).**

(72) Inventors; and

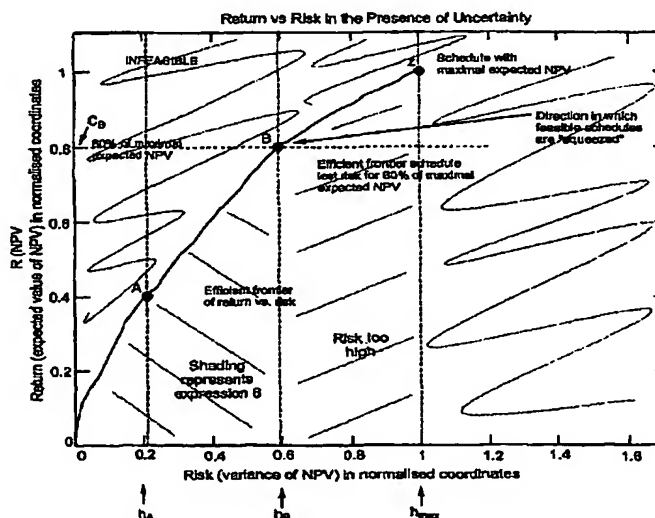
(75) **Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FROYLAND, Gary, Allan** [AU/AU]; 7/76 Type Street, Burnley, Victoria 3121

Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD(S) OF BLENDED MINE PLANNING, DESIGN AND PROCESSING



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the field of extracting resource(s) from a particular location. In particular, the present invention relates to the planning, design and processing related to a mine location in a manner based on enhancing the extraction of material considered of value, relative to the effort and/or time in extracting that material. The present application discloses, amongst other things, a method of and apparatus for determining the removal of material(s) from a location, determining the removal of material(s) of a differing relative value from a location, determining a schedule corresponding to a risk and/or return basis, determining aggregated block ordering for the extraction of material from a location, determining a schedule for extraction of dumps and determining a mine design.

WO 2004/033854 A1



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.